

# Tanguay Collection, 1608-1890

## Canada "How to" Guide, Beginning Level: Instruction

September 2016

### GOAL

This guide will teach you how to access and extract information from a French-Canadian record in the Tanguay Collection by understanding the organization and details in the record.

### INTRODUCTION

The Tanguay Collection is the foremost genealogical dictionary of French-Canadian families. The French-Canadian priest and genealogist, Father Cyprien Tanguay, published this large seven-volume collection. Through his original research, he traced ancestors of many early French-Canadian colonists back to parts of France. The collection is organized alphabetically by surname and consist of family groups including names of husbands, wives, and children, with baptism, marriage, and burial dates and places.

The volumes are organized as follows:

Volume 1 – 1608-1700

Volume 2 – Surnames A-Cha

Volume 3 – Surnames Cha-E, *esclaves* (slaves)

Volume 4 – Surnames F-Jin

Volume 5 – Surnames Joa-Mer

Volume 6 – Surnames Mer-Rob

Volume 7 – Surnames Rob-Z, *Tables alphabétiques des noms* (Alphabetical name index, with associated surname variations)

### Accessing the Tanguay collection

**Family History Library:** Copies are located on both the second and third floors of the Family History Library in the reference section. The call number is **971 D2t 1975**.

**FamilySearch:** The Tanguay collection can be browsed electronically. Follow these directions:

1. Go to FamilySearch, found at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).
2. Hover over **Search** to reveal the dropdown menu. Then click on **Catalog**.
3. Click on **Titles** and enter **Dictionnaire genealogique des familles canadienne**.
4. Click on **Author** and enter **Tanguay**. Then click on **Search**.
5. There will be several entries showing. You will need to look through each entry until you find the correct entry. This entry will list all seven volumes with clickable links to browse scanned images of the books.

**Ancestry.com:** Here, the Tanguay Collection images are digitized, browsable, indexed and electronically searchable by given name, surname, place or date. Follow these directions:

1. On the Ancestry.com home page, click on **Search**, then click on **Card Catalog**.

2. Enter **Tanguay** in the Keyword box and click **Search**.
3. Click on the entry "Quebec, Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian Families..."
4. Enter the information of the desired person in the matching search boxes and **Search**.

## HOW TO

Entries are organized alphabetically by surname, then chronologically by the date of the husband's first marriage. The **dates** in large, bold type mark the beginning of a new family record. Each entry is a record of all the husband's marriages and children. The husband's SURNAME is written in large capital letters. The surname of the wife is written in small capital letters. The *children's names* are written in italics. When only a given name is listed, it means the child had the same surname as the father.

### Record Contents

An entry may contain the following information about each individual:

- Name (if it is a child's name, the name will be in italics)
- Baptism or christening date and place (parents' entries will only record the year)
- Year and place of marriage (large year entry at the beginning of record)
- Year and place of burial
- Names of a couple's parents (usually father's name in parenthesis at the side of record)

**Roman numerals:** Roman numerals represent the generation distant a person is from the family's original immigrant ancestor (usually by father's name in parenthesis at the side of record as well as by the husband's name).

**Abbreviations:** The following are standard abbreviations used in the Tanguay collection.

b = baptism or christening date (used in place of birth date)

m = marriage date

s = burial date (used in place of death date)

III, IV (etc.) = generations away from immigrant ancestor

Sometimes given names are abbreviated (for example, Jean-Bte for Jean-Baptiste).

**Localities and Superscript Numbers:** The locality where the christening, marriage, or burial occurred may be listed, as well as a person's place of origin. For places appearing multiple times in an entry, superscript numbers are used. The first time the locality appears, a superscript number will follow it (for example: Trois Rivières<sup>4</sup>). Anytime the number appears again in the entry, it indicates the same place. Each entry may use different numbers for various places.

In the entry shown to the right, Ste-Anne-de-la-Perade<sup>2</sup> has a small superscript <sup>2</sup> next to it. This means that each event in the entry that has a superscript <sup>2</sup> took place in Sainte Anne-de-la-Perade.

**1742**, (5 février) Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade.<sup>2</sup>  
 III.—TESSIER, JOACHIM, [EDMOND II.  
 b 1718; s <sup>2</sup> 10 janvier 1756.  
 MAGNAN, Marie-Anne, [ETIENNE II.  
 b 1724.  
*Marie-Françoise*, b <sup>2</sup> 27 mars 1743; m à Michel  
 DEVAU.—*Joachim*, b <sup>2</sup> 15 juin 1745. — *Michel-*  
*Edmond*, b <sup>2</sup> 21 juillet 1748.—*Joseph*, b <sup>2</sup> 13 mars  
 1752.—*Charles*, b <sup>2</sup> 15 oct. 1754.

Image Source: Cyprien Tanguay, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours* (Montréal: E. Senécal & Fils, 1871-1890), Volume 7.

Available online at FamilySearch.org at [https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE1916083](https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE1916083) Image 289 of 696.

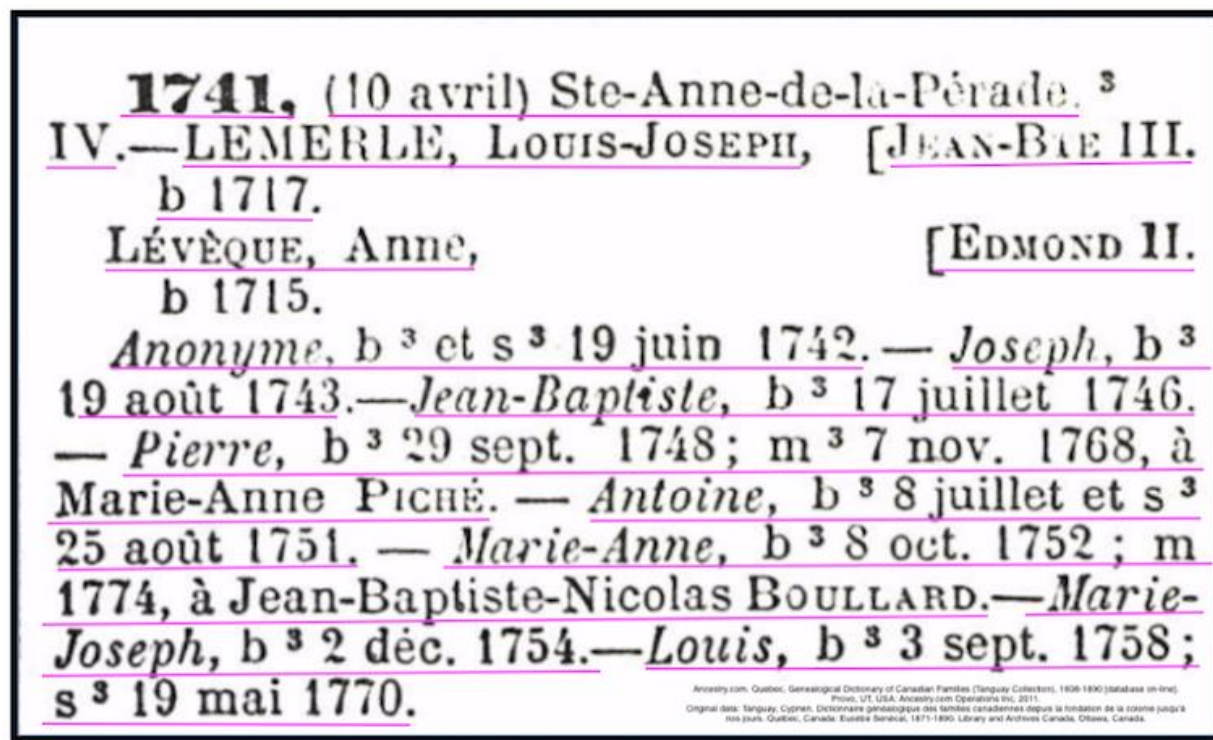
**Numbers and Dates:** The month is spelled out, but not capitalized. For example: 10 January 1817 translated would 10 janvier 1817. To identify French numbers and months, refer to the French Word List at the following link: [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/French\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/French_Word_List).

## Strategy for using the Tanguay Collection

Once you identify an ancestral family in the Tanguay collection, you can use the collection to trace ancestors backward or relatives forward. Each entry consists of a husband and his marriages and children. Included in the entry for the parents is the birth year and father's name. Use this information to find the entry listing the husband or wife as a child of his or her parents. Subsequently, an entry lists the spouses of the children. To identify descendants and relatives, use this information to identify the entry of the child as the father or mother of his or her own family.

## PRACTICE

The following image is an entry from the Tanguay collection. Look at the entry and try to extract the family information in the entry. For help, look below the image for questions and **answers** about the image entry.



Source: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2177>

1. What was the date and place of marriage? (Look in line 1.) **10 April 1741, Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade. (A superscript 3 is used instead of writing this place in this entry.)**
2. Who is the husband and how many generations is he from the family's original immigrant ancestor? (Look in line 2.) **Louis-Joseph Lemerle, four (IV) generations.**

3. Who is the husband's father and how many generations is he from the family's original immigrant ancestor? (Look in line 2.) **Jean-Baptiste Lemerle, three (III) generations**
4. What year was the husband born? (Look in line 3.) **born 1717**
5. Who is the wife and in what year was she born? (Look in lines 4 and 5.) **Anne Lévêque, born 1715**
6. Who is the wife's father and how many generations is he from the family's original immigrant ancestor? (Look in line 4.) **Edmond Lévêque, two (II) generations**
7. What is the name, baptism and burial dates and place of the first child? (Look in line 6.) **Anonyme (means anonymous or unnamed), baptized and buried on 19 June 1742 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade**
8. What is the name, baptism date and place of the second child? (Look in lines 6 and 7.) **Joseph Lemerle, baptized 19 August 1743 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade**
9. What is the name, baptism date and place of the third child? (Look in line 7.) **Jean-Baptiste Lamerle, baptized 17 July 1746 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade**
10. What is the name, baptism and marriage dates and place, and wife of the fourth child? (Look in lines 8 and 9.) **Pierre Lamerle, baptized 29 September 1748 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade; married 7 November 1768 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, wife is Marie-Anne Piché**
11. What are the names, baptism and burial dates and places of the subsequent children? (Look in lines 9 through 12).
  - **Antoine Lamerle, baptized 8 July 1751 and buried 25 August 1751 both at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade**
  - **Marie-Anne Lamerle, baptized 8 October 1752 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, married in 1774 to Jean-Baptiste-Nicolas Boullard, marriage place is not given**
  - **Marie-Joseph Lamerle, baptized 2 December 1754 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade**
  - **Louis Lamerle, baptized 3 September 1758 and buried 19 May 1770, both events at Ste-Anne-de-la Pérade**

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.